

NAZIS IN SUITS: PAUL FROMM & THE FAR RIGHT

Citizens for Foreign Aid Reform and the Canadian Association for Free Expression – EXPOSED!

PAUL FROMM – Racist, Anti-Semite – and
History Teacher?

After years of teaching high school history in the Peel Board of Education (west of Toronto), Paul Fromm lost his job in the spring of 1994. Pressure from students and anti-fascist activists had finally forced the Ministry of Education to take action against this mis-educator, a longtime organizer in the Canadian far-right. Even the teachers union had defended Fromm's right to teach, despite his association with white supremacist, neo-Nazi groups and individuals – not to mention his racist behavior in the classroom!

Fromm's history is a good window into the murky world of the far-right and fringe-right in Canada, where racists and fascists wear suits and try to gain respectability within the broader rightwing movement. Even now, Fromm is still employed by the Board of Education, but this time teaching english-as-a-second-language to adults.

ORIGINS

It was 1972 and the Edmund Burke Society, a fascist youth group, had just transformed into the Western

Guard. The move signalled a final shift into open neo-Naziism, complete with swastikas, racist attacks and calls for "White Power". Many members of the Edmund Burke Society stayed with the new, openly racist Western Guard, while those who wanted to avoid the "Nazi" label quit the group. Paul Fromm, who had helped found the Society in 1967, was one of these quitters.

While Ontario's neo-Nazi movement of the 1970s was plagued by arrests, internal power struggles and petty vendettas, Fromm and other Society veterans patiently built up an activist core and base of support for their views. In the years 1979 and 1980 this activist core produced two of the most important far-right groups in Ontario: Citizens for Foreign Aid Reform (C-FAR) and the Canadian Association for Freedom of Expression (CAFE).

Citizens for Foreign Aid Reform

Since its inception in 1979, C-FAR has sponsored countless lectures by right-wing luminaries, published dozens of small booklets, produced two separate newsletters, and run a successful right-wing clearinghouse from Fromm's home in Rexdale, Ontario.

C-FAR propaganda is full of references to "natural" laws of race relations, framed in "scientific" language. Intolerance and discrimination are



explained away as a culture's defence against assimilation and oblivion. There are plenty of little disclaimers like "we wish it weren't so", "these conclusions may be painful", or "we bear no ill will towards anybody". In this way, Fromm was a decade ahead of racists like David Duke and Wolfgang Droege, who today go to great pains insisting that they don't hate anyone, they just want to "preserve their own" race.

Of course, not all C-FAR reading materials maintain such a lofty approach. Every issue of C-FAR's "Quarterly Report" features headlines like "Black Gangs Pillage Toronto", "Third World Immigrants Bring Leprosy", "Asian Gangs Offer Canada White Heroin and 'Yellow Slavery' Cops Warn", and so on. One book called *Zebra* is described in an old C-FAR catalogue as a "truly chilling account of 179 days of terror that gripped San Francisco as fanatical Black Muslims ritually raped and butchered 22 White citizens in the name of Allah."

Canadian Association for Freedom of Expression

The CAFE came together in the summer of 1980 as a reaction to the establishment of Human Rights Commissions in Canada, viewed as a "a major instrument to harass and control the Majority". Among the group's founders were several C-FAR activists, including Fromm, James Hull, and Greg Robinson (an original Edmund Burke). Other early CAFE members included Harry Barrett, Alec Collins, Paul Hartmann, Trevor Haws, Peetar Tammisto and James Puddy.

The group acts a permanent defense committee for Canadian racists, its newsletter warning against the censorship of racists, hate crimes legislation, and police investigations of right-wing groups. Like C-FAR, CAFE normally restricts itself to producing propaganda. Over the years Paul Fromm has taken a leading role in both groups. Both presently share his phone number, as well as the same post office box. The groups' newsletters bear a striking similarity not only in style, but also in political perspective.

Key Obsessions

• The French Menace

Back in the days of the Edmund Burke Society, Paul Fromm's cronies would attack supporters of the Front pour la Liberation de Quebec (FLQ), with fists and mace. Neither C-FAR nor CAFE engage in such militant activities, yet they continue to work closely with key figures in this country's anti-French movement. Ron Leitch, leader of the Alliance for the Preservation of English in Canada (APEC), a group

which ties Francophobia to the far-right's wider strategy, has repeatedly spoken at events organized by Fromm in the Toronto area. His booklet *Official Bilingualism: the sellout of English Canada* was also published by C-FAR.

Another man within C-FAR's orbit who warns of the French menace is the American Peter Brimelow. The author of two C-FAR booklets, *The New Elite and the Dispossession of English Canada* and *The Enemies of Freedom*, Brimelow is also a former editor of *Forbes* magazine and past director of the Northern Foundation, an umbrella organization for the Canadian far-right. In his bestseller *The Patriot Game*, Brimelow lists C-FAR, APEC and CAFE as useful contacts for "true" Canadian conservatives. Clearly in agreement with C-FAR's despicable ideas, Brimelow's most recent book is a long argument in favour of closing American borders to immigrants from the Third World.

• Anti-Communism

Paul Fromm was active with the Canadian Freedom Foundation, the Canadian chapter of the World Anti-Communist League (WACL), for several years in the 1980s. There he worked with Nazi collaborators, South American death squad commanders and American Holocaust deniers, not to mention leaders of the world military-industrial complex.

Not surprisingly, as Fromm gained access to the world of big-time Cold Warriors, so did C-FAR and CAFE. In 1983, members of the C-FAR/CAFE activist core, including Greg Robinson, Paul Fromm, Alex Greer, Ken Long and Bil Urbonas, attended the 4th North American Region WACL conference. A year later C-FAR hosted a meeting with Major General John Singlaub (then president of the

In December 1990, C-FAR co-sponsored a "Martyr's Day Rally" with the Women's Aryan Union and the Heritage Front. Fromm unabashedly took the podium.



WACL) to raise funds for the Nicaraguan contras. Over the following years C-FAR published several anti-communist and anti-peace movement brochures.

The Freedom Foundation's president at the time of Fromm's involvement was John Gamble, a Progressive Conservative MP. Other particularly rabid Tories, such as Dan Blenkarn, Alex Kingdy and John Oostrom, also attended WACL events at that time, making the league an important place to meet successful Canadian politicians as well as world-class butchers.

• Anti-Semitism

By the time he became active in the WACL, Fromm was already an established friend of

Canadian anti-semites. CAFE has integrated rabid Jew-haters into its ranks and defended Holocaust deniers' "freedom of speech" from day one. C-FAR and CAFE have always opposed the prosecution of Nazi war criminals living in Canada. The Autumn 1987 issue of C-FAR's *Canadian Population and Immigration Hotline* described these efforts as "war on East Europeans", a vendetta being waged by an "insatiable and bitter people who continue to want to refight World War II" to the benefit of the Soviet Union. In a rare break from its purely (un)educational work, in 1990 CAFE held demonstrations in support of Arthur Rudolph, a former Nazi rocket scientist who was seeking refuge in Canada at the time.

Several times over the past fifteen years, C-FAR and CAFE have sponsored lectures in the Toronto area by British Holocaust denier David Irving. Irving denies being an anti-semiter, yet states that he is "not surprised that anti-semitism exists when people see that the Jews are above the law." The last time Irving spoke to a CAFE crowd in 1992 he had entered the country illegally. That tour was organized with the help of the West Coast Canadian Free Speech League and a Nazi bonehead from Kitchener by the name of Michael Rothe.

Audiotapes of Irving and others spewing Holocaust denial are distributed by C-FAR, as are several booklets by deniers. Furthermore, over the past year the C-FAR Newsletter has published several articles about

race and intelligence by Charles Weber, an associate of the Holocaust-denying Institute for Historical Review, and a defence witness at Ernst Zundel's 1985 trial.

Wolves in Sheep's Clothing

Despite lies to the contrary, several key people of C-FAR and CAFE are not even just "fringe right" reactionaries, but are out-and-out Nazi sympathizers. One example: Paul Hartmann. At one point a director of both CAFE and C-FAR, in 1974 this man was treasurer of the openly neo-Nazi Western Guard. In those years Hartmann was known as the "High Priest" of the Revolutionary Odinitist Movement, which he described as an "Aryan" religion and a "New Order for our White People". He is also reported to have worked with the Ku Klux Klan at that time.

After the Western Guard dissolved in 1980s, Hartmann joined Fromm and others in founding CAFE. In 1984, he became a director of this organization. He also joined the Cornerstone Alliance, a group which championed "traditional values". Founded by a former cop, the Alliance's advisory committee included Fromm, Harry F. Barrett of CAFE and John Gamble of the Canadian Freedom Foundation.

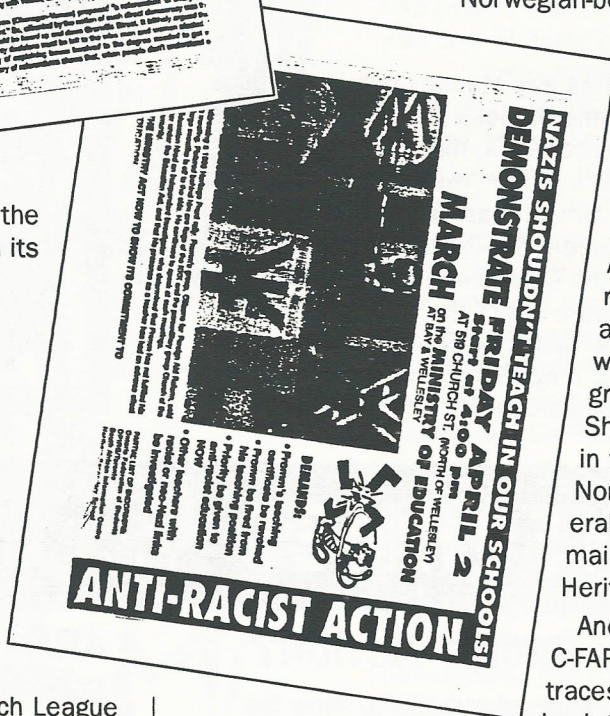
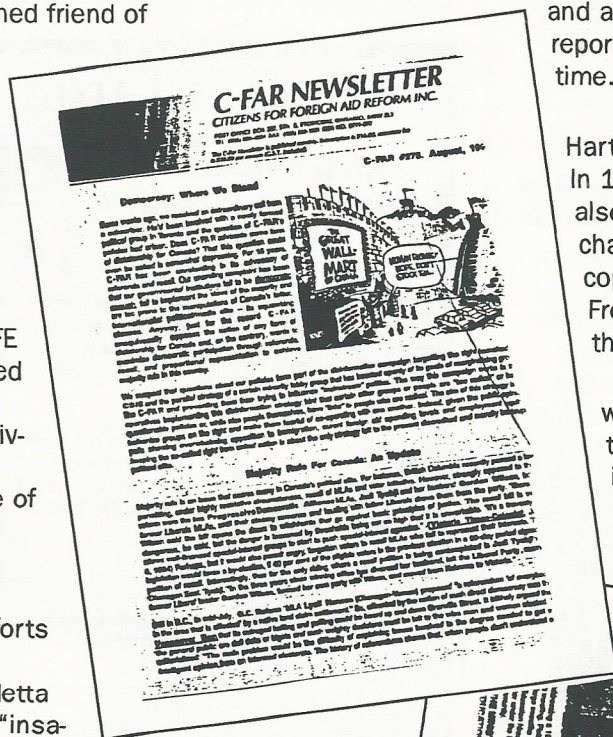
In 1984 Hartmann became a director of C-FAR, where he had the job of introducing right-wing visitors to Toronto activists. Such visiting bigshots included Major General J. Singlaub, Peter Worthington of the *Sun* newspaper chain, and former South African ambassador Glenn Babb. The Norwegian-born Hartmann

remained with the anti-immigrant C-FAR until his sudden and mysterious death in 1986.

Paul's death didn't stop his wife Anne Hartmann, who remains politically active on the far-right with the anti-feminist group REAL Women. She is also a key figure in the pro-apartheid Northern Foundation, several of whose officials maintain ties to the Heritage Front.

Another prominent C-FAR/CAFE worker who traces her political roots back to the Western Guard is Paul Fromm's wife, Mrs.

Daryle Reside. A former editor of the Western Guard's magazine *Aryan*, Reside authored an "exposé" of the "Jewish conspiracy" in 1980. Here she described Jewish people as "slimy swindlers who control the media", and



noted that "the lust for material and coarse power is an inherited trait within these spiritual degenerates." In 1984, she became a director of CAFE, and over the past ten years is reputed to have done much of the office work for CAFE, C-FAR and other groups in which her husband is active.

Boneheads

Since the late 1980s boneheads have been increasingly present at C-FAR events, often serving as security. They also showed up in force to support Paul Fromm's submission to a 1989 Ontario task force on race relations. At the same time, CAFE has paid increasing attention to "repression" suffered by neo-Nazi youth, as well as by the groups like the Heritage Front, to which boneheads are attracted.

In December 1990, C-FAR co-sponsored a "Martyr's Day Rally" with the Women's Aryan Union and the Heritage Front. Martyr's Day is observed by neo-Nazis in memory of Robert Jay Matthews, a member of the neo-Nazi paramilitary gang known as the Order, who was killed in a shoot-out with U.S. police.

The event featured the racist rock band RaHoWa, then associated with Church of the Creator. RaHoWa's repertoire includes songs like "Nigger Nigger Nigger Out Out Out". From the same stage Fromm addressed the crowd of neo-Nazis, saying that "We're up against an enemy, as I see it, the equivalent of an army of occupation... And the only way we are going to regain our country is through unity, unity, unity."

Conclusion

C-FAR and CAFE serve as way stations between groups like the Reform Party and the less popular fascist organizations. Like other reactionaries, members of these groups are often active in other "respectable" right-wing organizations. Fromm himself has been a member of the National Citizens' Coalition, the Progressive Conservative Party (early 80s) and the Confederation of Regions Party (late 80s). He was booted out of the Tories once his political affiliations became well known, and was recently expelled from the NCC, a hypocritical move and clear sign that sections of the Canadian Right are finding it expedi-

ent to keep the likes of Fromm at arm's length now that they feel they are truly entering the mainstream.

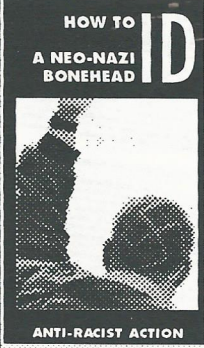
Both C-FAR and CAFE attract Canadians who oppose official bilingualism, the society safety net and multiculturalism, and other aspects of liberal Canadian society. These feelings are then pulled together, linked to racist pseudo-science, and turned into a comprehensive ideology. In other words, because some people evidently do see these groups as "respectable", they can attract regular bigots and pull them further to the right.

And that is why it's so important that C-FAR, CAFE and similar fronts for fascism be exposed for what they really are.

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